IN THE CLAIMS:

1-28. (Canceled)

29. (New) A process for identifying companies likely to outsource services comprising the steps of:

importing from various data providers publicly available information comprising SEC filings, executive management changes, corporate mergers and acquisitions, and holding in a single data base the imported data for all companies including Positive Examples, Negative Examples and Candidate Examples including thousands of Candidate Examples;

reducing or extracting the publically available information held in the database to obtain a set of metrics or features inputtable to a mathematical model;

applying data mining techniques to the publicly available information, and identifying Positive Examples each Positive Example being uniquely defined by a name of a company that signed an outsourcing contract with any provider and a date of signing of the contract; and further identifying Negative Examples each Negative Example being uniquely defined by a name of a company unlikely to outsource and a date of a predisposition not to outsource;

constructing the mathematical model, including constructing the model to take as inputs the metrics or features for each Positive Example and each Negative Example;

initially presenting all metrics or features to the model, followed by selecting a subset of metrics or features that are mathematically most likely to differentiate Positive Examples and Negative Examples;

training the mathematical model with the Positive Examples and the Negative Examples;

categorizing each example as a Positive Example, a Negative Example or a Candidate company, wherein a Candidate company is a candidate for outsourcing;

for the categorized example, identifying a signal period, with the signal period being a time over which the metrics or features will be defined; with the signal period identification comprising:

specifying the signal periods for Negative Examples;

specifying the signal periods for Positive Examples;

including, for a company having both a Negative Example and a subsequent Positive Example, introducing a Blackout Period so that a signal period for the Negative Example for the company having both Negative and subsequent Positive Examples exhibits no influence with regard to the subsequent Positive Example for the same company;

specifying the signal periods for Candidate examples;

predicting a likelihood or propensity that each Candidate company will enter into an outsourcing contract at a current date;

as to the predicted likelihood or propensities, ranking the Candidate companies and outputting a target list in which the Candidate companies are ranked.